

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 942

By Williams

A RESOLUTION to recognize and honor Nancy Lawson for her breast cancer awareness ministry.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who have courageously battled life threatening illnesses, offering hope and inspiration to their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, one such remarkable person is Nancy Lawson, a woman of great faith who has inspired many through her ministry of encouragement; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Lawson was originally diagnosed with breast cancer in September of 2001, and after a successful mastectomy, remained cancer-free until September of 2007, when the presence of cancer was again detected in her right breast; and

WHEREAS, after much heartfelt prayer for guidance and understanding, Nancy Lawson received inspiration in the form of an acrostic for the word, cancer, which ultimately led to the development and distribution of what has become known as the little pink pamphlet, "What Cancer Can't Do"; and

WHEREAS, inspired by the scripture found in I Corinthians 15:35-49, the encouraging pamphlet includes a poem that was read at the memorial service of the late Dan Richardson, a victim of cancer; the stirring poem is about how the spirit of a person continues to triumph over cancer, even as the disease destroys the body; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Lawson's pink pamphlet contains other acrostics, songs, and poems, and is printed through the generous efforts of Lewis and Tony Hughes of Heritage Printing, who have donated the printing of the pamphlets for years; and

WHEREAS, often distributed with the pink pamphlets in gift bags are stuffed toy bears; and

WHEREAS, Nancy Lawson's bear ministry began when she would give away the breast cancer awareness bears that were produced by the Avon cosmetics company, and when Avon stopped selling the bears, Ms. Lawson and her devoted friends began scouting stores for small, plush bears that would easily fit into gift bags; the bear hunters purchase the bears and bag them with the pink pamphlet, other poems, and a miniature burden blanket to let people know that although they bear their burdens, God can offer peace and rest through any circumstance; and

WHEREAS, the bear ministry has grown by leaps and bounds with other groups and ministries participating in Ms. Lawson's ministry, such as the Wheels of Faith Christian Motorcycle Ministry, who distribute the bears to the patients they visit each month; and

WHEREAS, possessed of an indomitable spirit and stalwart determination, Nancy Lawson further encourages people affected by cancer through her radio show at WMCH Radio, called "The Encourager"; and

WHEREAS, since its first program on April 3, 2008, "The Encourager" has featured more than 250 people affected by cancer who have come on the air to share their testimonies of how God has worked in their lives or the lives of their loved ones; they share songs, books they wrote, or just tell their story in order to encourage others who suffer from cancer; and

WHEREAS, the radio show is kept on the air through the generosity of sponsors, and last year, it expanded its audience through its broadcast on WIGN Radio 1550 AM Bristol; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Lawson draws extra strength and motivation from Psalms 40:5: "Many, O Lord my God, are thy wonderful works which thou has done...if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered."; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Lawson is an extremely talented and compassionate person whose life lessons on faith, determination, and recovery truly serve as an inspiration to her fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Nancy Lawson's dedication to excellence and display of courage and perseverance is clearly deserving of the respect, admiration, and commendation of this legislative body; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that that we hereby honor and commend Nancy Lawson for her diligent efforts in encouraging others in their fight against cancer and salute her unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.